

CHAPTER: 900
Inmate Programs and Services

DEPARTMENT ORDER:
921 – Tribal Government Relations

OFFICE OF PRIMARY
RESPONSIBILITY:
EPCR

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Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation and Reentry



Department Order Manual

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Thornell", is written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Thornell, Director

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PURPOSE

This Department Order establishes the basic principles governing the Department's relations with federally recognized American Indian Tribes ("Tribes") in Arizona, and ensures that Tribes to which inmate population are members receive reasonable notice of the development and revision of Department Orders, written instructions and procedures specific to incarcerated Tribal members.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Director, Deputy Director, Chief of Staff, General Counsel, Assistant Directors and Administrators shall ensure all aspects of this Department Order are enforced.

PROCEDURES

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 The agency appointed Tribal Liaison, with oversight by the Director or designee, shall serve as the Department's Tribal Liaison and the contact person with Tribes represented in our inmate population and with the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations.
- 1.2 The Director or designee may enter into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) when considered mutually appropriate by the Department and any interested Tribal Government.

2.0 MAINTAINING TRIBAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS – To foster cooperation of Tribes and allow for culturally appropriate policies and practices.

- 2.1 The Department shall:
 - 2.1.1 Ensure incarcerated Tribal members are afforded opportunities that are consistent with their Tribal status and commensurate with their custody classification.
 - 2.1.2 Provide avenues of communication that allow the Department and Tribes represented in our inmate population to share information and respond to incarcerated Tribal members' inquiries.
 - 2.1.3 As authorized by the Deputy Director, consult with representatives of Tribes represented in the inmate population when a question is raised regarding the validity of an incarcerated Tribal member's claim regarding Tribal practices and seek a solution that best accomplishes the interests of traditional Tribal practices and satisfies the Department's compelling safety and security interests.
 - 2.1.4 Relay Tribal issues, including requests from Tribes represented in our inmate population for assistance or information from the Deputy Director to the appropriate Assistant Director as soon as possible.
 - 2.1.5 Conduct activities on Tribal Land only as approved by the Deputy Director and authorized by appropriate Tribal officials.

- 2.1.6 Provide culturally relevant and appropriate programming, activities, and services to incarcerated Tribal members.
- 2.2 The agency appointed Tribal Liaison shall:
 - 2.2.1 Report directly to the Assistant Director for Education, Programming and Community Reentry on all matters regarding Tribal affairs.
 - 2.2.2 Encourage representatives of Tribes to contact and visit incarcerated Tribal members to help them prepare for release and reintegration in the communities of Arizona as civil, productive citizens.
 - 2.2.3 Identify and refer to the Assistant Director for Education, Programming and Community Reentry, Native American staff members and/or volunteers, whenever possible and appropriate, as subject matter experts to provide advice on Native American issues and interact with Tribes represented in our inmate populations.
 - 2.2.4 On or before October 1st of each year, review the Department Order and submit an electronic report to the Governor and the Legislature, through the Director, which describes all action undertaken as a result of the implementation of this written instruction.